Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 016769 ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 COME-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/GC;A KEESEE
APPROVED BY EB/IFD/ OIA; R D KAUZLARICH
EB/IFD/OIA;D GRANT
AF/C:R MARCUS (INFO)
L/M:K MALMBORG (SUBS)

-----097134 210618Z /14

P 202304Z JAN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJECT: TAW

REFS: (A) STATE 22346 (1976); (B) STATE 32314 (1976); (C) LIBREVILLE 1870 (1976)

- 1. LITIGATION DESCRIBED REF (A) RECENTLY RECOMMENCED IN NEW YORK. OPIC REQUESTS THAT POST CONTINUE TO SEEK APPROVAL ORIGINALLY REQUESTED REF (B). MOST RECENT ADVICE FROM POST TO OPIC IN THIS MATTER WAS REF (C).
- 2. RE INFO REQUESTED PARA 2 REF (C), OPIC NOT IN POSSES-SION DETAILS RE TAW CREDITORS IN GABON. RE GENERAL TAW OPERATIONS, OPIC BELIEVES THESE SAME AS REST OF AFRICA, E.G., THE LEASING OF TRUCKS, PRINTING PRESSES, BOWLING EQUIPMENT, AND POSSIBLY LIGHT AIRCRAFT. PROBABILITY IS ONLY TRUCKS ARE LEASED IN GABON. OPIC BELIEVES TAW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORIGINATED GABON OPERATIONS IN OR ABOUT 1971 BUT PROBABLY TERMINATED THEM WHEN IT MOVED MOST OF ITS WEST AFRICAN TRUCK FLEET TO ZAMBIA IN SUMMER 1973 IN ATTEMPT TO PARTIALLY COMPLY WITH LEASE UNDER WHICH TAW HAD AGREED TO SUPPLY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA WITH 300 TRUCKS BY JANUARY 1974. OPIC BELIEVES THAT AT ONE TIME A COMPANY NAMED TAW SERVICES, LTD., INCORPORATED IN GABON, WAS IN BUSINESS IN GABON

CARRYING OUT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF TAW LEASED VEHICLES. CREDITORS HAVE HAD NO REPORTS FROM TAW IN OVER TWO YEARS SO ABOVE INFORMATION IS AT BEST INCOMPLETE.

- 3. IN EVENT GOG UNWILLING TO PROVIDE BLANKET APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER TRANSACTIONS THEMSELVES, AT MINIMUM GOG RESPONSE SHOULD SPECIFY (A) THAT IT WAS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRANSFEROR (TAW) TO SEEK APPROVAL BEFORE OUT-REMITTING LOCAL FUNDS, (B) THAT ANY ILLEGALITY WHICH MAY HAVE INHERED IN THE TRANSACTIONS AROSE SOLELY FROM TAW'S FAILURE TO SEEK SUCH APPROVAL, AND (C) THAT THE USG ITSELF VIOLATED NO LOCAL LAWS.
- 4. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING ASSISTANCE. DECLASSIFY FOLLOWING 1/20/79. CHRISTOPHER

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